

his parents. You met the "Big Guy", eldest son, Roman Jr., earlier on this program—his wife is the former MaryAnn Behlen of Columbus. Many grandchildren, nieces and nephews are also here today. Ultimately, family was first for Roman—as it is with all of us.

#### THE CAMPAIGNER

Roman was never happier nor better showcased than when he was on those early day political campaigns. Ruth and I were visiting the other day about a particular stump speech he once made—with a partially eaten kolache in his left hand—on a Main Street corner at Schuyler during the Nebraska Republican caravan. It was indeed a powerful speech, spliced with Czech phrases and when he finished his remarks, the audience acknowledged him as if he were truly the "second coming." The same result happened a couple of weeks later in a Hotel Ballroom in Broken Bow where the usually very reserved Sandhills crowd gave him at least a five minute standing ovation on his inspiring message and brilliant delivery. Oh, he could be a spell-binder deluxe, given the proper occasion.

#### A NEAR MISS

In the late 50's, a national search was on for a new leader of the Republican Party. The conservative kingmakers didn't publicize it, of course, but the short list came down to the two U.S. Senators with safe seats, Roman Hruska and Barry M. Goldwater of Arizona. Goldwater was ultimately designated somewhat on geography, but mostly because they determined that the TV cameras showcased Goldwater better. The rest, as they say, is history.

#### HE HONORED THE LAW

Most importantly, Roman Hruska's entire life revolved around the law. He lived by this creed once enunciated by Patrick Henry, "Always honor the law because the law has honored you."

Roman spent his first two law years studying at the University of Chicago Law School. Then he attended the Creighton Law School from which he graduated in 1929, just before the great depression hit with all its fury. He then, in the next 20 or so years, built up a substantial law practice, and from there was appointed to the Douglas County Board. He became its energetic, successful Chairman, known for his integrity and ability. He was always a prodigious worker. Even his political adversaries conceded that he achieved a lot the old fashioned way. He earned it.

Then to Congress for most of one term, then 22 years in the U.S. Senate. In the Senate, he was Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen's right hand bower on the floor of the Senate. Dirksen—"The billion here, and a billion there guy"—called Roman his floor lawyer. Often, on major legislation, Dirksen would tell his senate colleagues if they had amendments, objections, or whatever—"Clear it with Roman." Roman became a skilled practitioner of the "art of the possible" and he closed many legislative deals for Dirksen.

#### EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE

It was as the "Minority Leader" of the Senate Judiciary Committee for almost 20 years, that Senator Hruska formally and extraordinarily honored the law.

He worked awfully hard and most effectively, to not only give fairness but structure and design to the law so it would be more effective and easier to use by Federal Judges, the Federal Court System and lawyers.

For the improvement of the rule of law, he co-sponsored the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1975 and the Criminal Justice Codification Revision and Reform Act of '73. For you law-

yers here, this was a very substantial overhaul of the entire title 18 of the U.S. Code. His was the Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978.

He, John McClelland, John Stennis, and Jim Eastland, Senior Democrat on the Committee, bonded and his working relationship with the Majority Party was always just something else, and highly unusual. For example, when he left the Senate, he had presided or co-presided over the confirmation hearings of all nine members of the U.S. Supreme Court—unprecedented in history—and that was an era of "civility" that seems to escape such modern day confirmation hearings. He was the principal architect of both the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. In 1972 and the years following, he served as Chairman of the Federal Commission on the Revision of the Federal Court Appellate System of the U.S. and I could go on; suffice it to say that for several years, no Justice Department initiative, no Federal Judgeship, no major legislation moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee until it had received his careful scrutiny and approval. Throughout, he honored the law, and he honored the Senate as an Institution. Roman's fingerprints, literally, were all over everything processed by Judiciary during these years.

#### ROMAN WAS SPECIAL

Let me say in closing, that we are not here for Roman, we are here for us. We need this—he doesn't! Whatever comes to us after the moment of our earthly death is beyond our understanding.

So, we remain here alive, confused and disconcerted. Above all, let's remember this about him:

Grace was in his soul, a smile and kind word were on his lips and friendship was in his heart always.

First, last, and always, he was a gentleman.

These words are so true for Roman, and perhaps, just perhaps, they alone might be a fitting eulogy. And, as a very recent World-Herald editorial writer noted: "The standards for integrity and service that Sen. Hruska set for himself, will long stand as his most fitting memorial".

A quick postscript paraphrasing beautiful Ecclesiastes, Chapter III, "to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven . . . A time to plant, and a time to harvest, a time to be born and a time to die."

Roman, you had a long and superlative life, and we're all a little better because you cared and touched us.

In Czech—Nas Dar—Good Bye—Dear Roman . . .

#### RETIREMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL DAVID W. GAY

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of Senators the retirement of Major General David W. Gay, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard, after a military career that has spanned more than 40 years.

The recipient of many military awards and honors, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Award, and the National Guard Bureau's Eagle Award, General Gay has been a valuable friend to me and all the people of Connecticut. His experience and dedication have helped make the Connecticut National Guard the exemplary organization that it is today.

General Gay's contributions to the state go far beyond his command of both the Army and Air National Guard. His record of community service equals his record of military service and his participation in such activities as the Nutmeg State Games and the Character Counts State Advisory Board demonstrate his love for the community he calls home.

Even in retirement, General Gay will continue to work for the people of Connecticut as the state's Year 2000 Coordinator. I am happy to extend my thanks to General Gay for his years of distinguished service and offer my best wishes in his retirement.●

#### SUPPORT FOR S. RES. 99

• Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that the attached letter of support from the American Psychological Association be printed in the RECORD in support of S. Res. 99.

The letter follows:

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, May 10, 1999.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: On behalf of the 159,000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I want to express support for your proposed Senate Resolution that would designate November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day."

The APA is concerned that suicide rates among young adolescents, African American males, American Indians/Alaskan Natives, and the elderly have increased dramatically in recent years. Since the 1950's, suicide rates among youth have nearly tripled. Between 1980 and 1990, the suicide rate increased by 30 percent in the 10- to 19-year-old age group. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-old American Indians and Alaskan Natives. For Americans age 65 and older, the suicide rate increased by nine percent between 1980 and 1992. Elderly Americans comprise about 13 percent of the country's population but account for about 20 percent of all suicides.

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States—our country is in dire need of a national effort to prevent suicide. In response to that need, the Surgeon General has been working with mental health advocates to develop a National Strategy for the Prevention of Suicide and is expected to publish a final version of the coordinated strategy later this year.

Your proposed Senate resolution would serve to further the intent of S. Res. 84, which you successfully introduced in the last Congress, to recognize suicide as a national problem and declare suicide prevention as a national priority. The proposed resolution would acknowledge the trauma of those who have suffered the loss of a loved one from suicide (suicide survivors) and the support they derive from one another. Their active involvement individually and through organizations has been instrumental in efforts to reduce suicide through research, education, and treatment programs.

In closing, the APA lends its support to you and other members of Congress in securing passage of this resolution. We also look forward to learning more about the administration's initiatives at the upcoming hearing on the National Strategy for the Prevention